



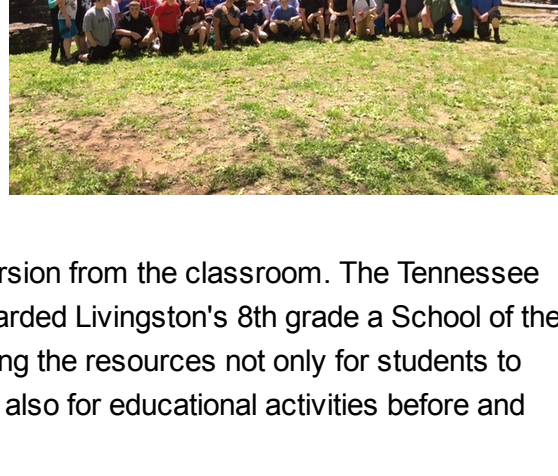
# Environmental Education

For Tomorrow's Stewards

June 2018

## Educational Highlight

### Livingston Middle School - 8th Grade



For Tennessee students, the month of May means field trips, and for the teachers of Livingston Middle School, this May meant an extra excursion from the classroom. The Tennessee State Parks Conservancy awarded Livingston's 8th grade a School of the Great Outdoors Grant, providing the resources not only for students to travel to a park for the day but also for educational activities before and after their trip.

In their time exploring Standing Stone State Park, approximately 90 students recieved hands-on applications in science, math, and history. The 8th graders participated in a history-based Marble program from Park Ranger Shawn Hughes and then spent the day hiking, identifying creek orgainisms and local wildflowers, and exploring the outdoors.

**"In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks."**  
- John Muir

While connecting to nature was the goal of the trip, teachers commented that the peer-to-peer connections were the best outcome of the place-based learning experience. Softball games, hikes, and water investigations included groups not usually seen. "Those kids in the creek would never talk to each other at school," said one teacher. That day social barriers washed away. Creeks can do that.

When thinking of next year's class trip, 8th grader Karly Harding said, "I'd rather come here than go to Dollywood! You get to hang out with everyone, not just a small group of people." Her teachers agreed, and hope to make Standing Stone State Park their new yearly class trip.

*Applications for next year's TSPC grants begin January 2019.*

[Learn More and Contribute to the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy](#)

## This Month Is...

### Great Outdoors Month

Outdoor recreation is a pervasive force in America, enjoyed by nearly every one of us and providing mental, physical, economic and social benefits.

Connecting with the outdoors is the first step in environmental stewardship. Take this month to get outside for a walk around your neighborhood, quiet book reading on the back porch, or active exploration of Tennessee's natural beauty.



**Check out new ways to get outdoors!**

June 8th: *Mindful Morning Kayak* at Long Hunter State Park

June 14th: *Night Lights: Fireflies & Spider Eyes* at Seven Islands Park

June 16th: *Rare Plants and Unique Habitats Tour* at Vesta Glade State Natural Area and John & Hester Lane Cedar Glade (**FREE**)

June 20th: *Two-Day Waterfall Hike and Photography Tour* at Rock Island State Park or South Cumberland State Park

June 30th: *Rattle the Chains II-Disc Golf Scramble* at Pickwick Landing State Park

[Ways to Get Outdoors in Tennessee State Parks](#)

[Even Harvard Says To Get Outdoors](#)

## Don't Miss...

### National Pollinator Week

June 18 - 24

Some people think only of allergies when they hear the word pollen.

But pollination, the transfer of pollen grains to fertilize the seed-producing ovaries of flowers, is an essential part of a healthy ecosystem. Pollinators play a key role in the production of more than 150 food crops in the U.S, such as apples, alfalfa, almonds, blueberries, cranberries, kiwis, melons, pears, plums, and squash.

Held every June, Pollinator Week educates others about pollinators place and purpose in the ecosystem and the services that they provide for the environment.

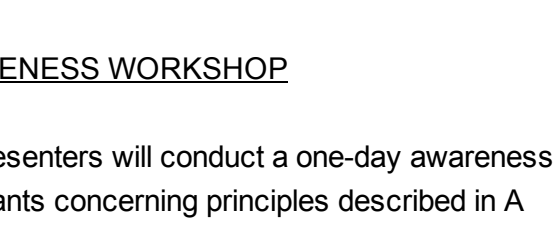


[Tennessee State Parks Honey Project](#)

[5 Things Kids Can Do To Help Pollinators](#)

[Build A Bee Condo](#)

## Professional Development



June 25 - 29

Tennessee Science Teachers Association is excited to announce a collaborative effort with the TN Tech Oakley STEM Center to provide a TN STEM Leadership Cadre Professional Learning Series Summer Institute

June 25-29, 2018. The TSTA TnTech STEM Center Summer Institute in Cookeville, TN will have two segments:

**Awareness** - June 25-26, and **Advanced** - June 26-29.

### AWARENESS WORKSHOP

TSTA Leadership Cadre presenters will conduct a one-day awareness session for K-12 participants concerning principles described in A Framework for K-12 Science Education, followed by an introduction to the Phenomena Question Model (PQM) instructional framework as an approach for integrating 3-D learning seamlessly with the **new TN science standards**.

#### JUNE 25

K-5 and 6th-8th participants  
8:30 am – 3:30 pm CST  
\$25 includes lunch

#### JUNE 26

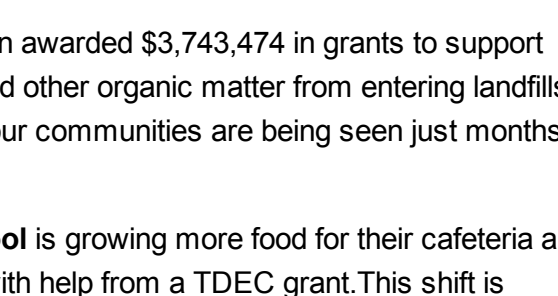
For 9th -12th participants  
8:30 am – 3:30 pm CST  
\$25 includes lunch

**Advanced Workshops are two-day trainings for K-8 and High School educators. Participants must make application for acceptance into the advanced portion of the institute.**

[Learn More and Apply](#)

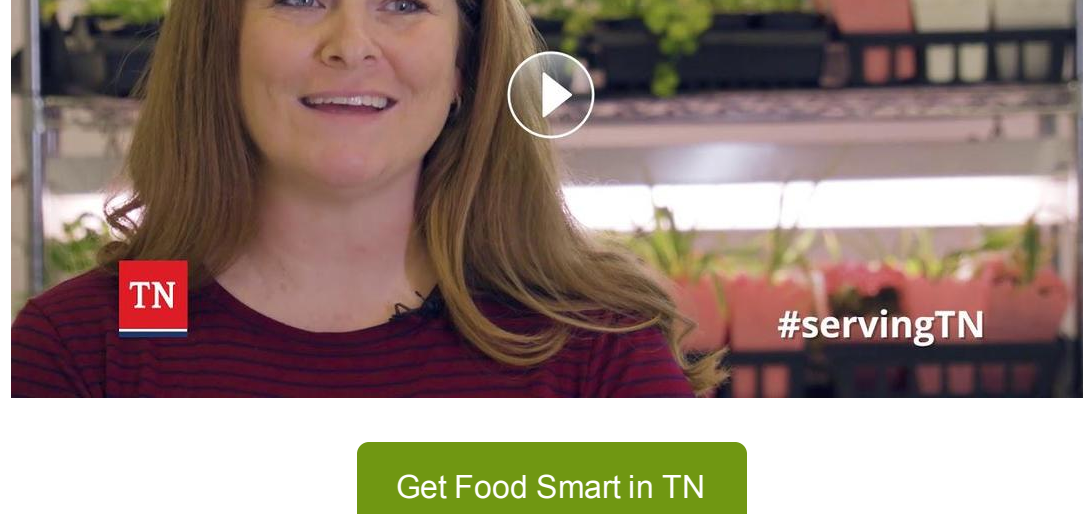
## Sustainability Corner

### Food Waste



In December of 2017, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation awarded \$3,743,474 in grants to support the reduction of food waste and other organic matter from entering landfills. Results of this investment in our communities are being seen just months later!

**Prescott South Middle School** is growing more food for their cafeteria and composting the food scraps with help from a TDEC grant. This shift is reducing the school's carbon footprint, saving landfill space, and resulting in cost savings for Putnam County.



TN

#servingTN

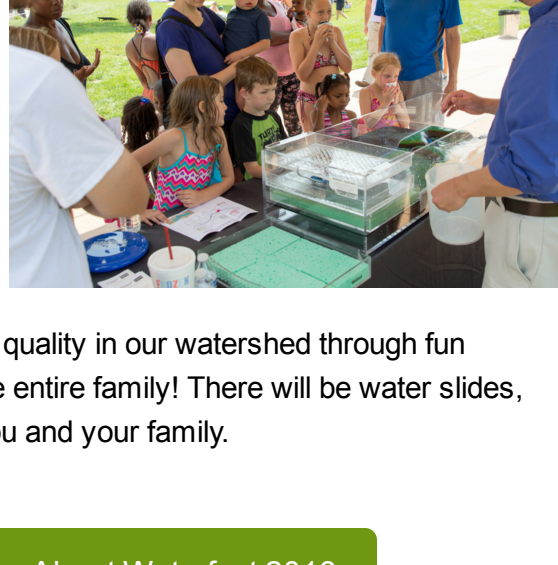
[Get Food Smart in TN](#)

[Food Waste Tips](#)

## Get Involved!

### Waterfest

Waterfest presented in collaboration with Water for Life is a **free**, one-day family festival all about celebrating and connecting youth and their families to our local water. Join us on **July 8th** in **Cumberland Park** to learn

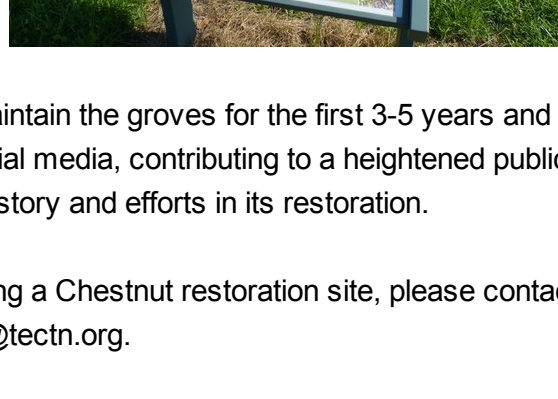


about the importance of water quality in our watershed through fun environmental activities for the entire family! There will be water slides, music, trivia, and prizes for you and your family.

[Learn More About Waterfest 2018](#)

### Chestnut Project

The Tennessee Envionmental Council is currently searching for interested parties to plant Chestnut groves in your community. **This is an excellent opportunity for parks, historical sites, and schools!** Community



partners will help plant and maintain the groves for the first 3-5 years and document the process on social media, contributing to a heightened public awareness of the Chestnut's history and efforts in its restoration.

For more information on hosting a Chestnut restoration site, please contact Cynthia Hernandez at [cynthia@tectn.org](mailto:cynthia@tectn.org).

[Educational Resources: American Chestnut Restoration](#)

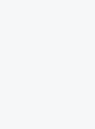
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